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[Facts and information about the

ELDORADO·NATIONAL·FOREST

·INFORMATION·



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA REGION
1958



**INSTITUTE OF FOREST
GENETICS**
← PRODUCING SUPERIOR TREES
FOR TOMORROW

TREE PLANTING →
PLANTATIONS REPLACE
BRUSH FIELDS



← **TIMBER GROWING**



TIMBER HARVEST →



FACTS AND INFORMATION
ABOUT
THE ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST
1958

United States Forest Service

Department of Agriculture

LOCATION

The Eldorado National Forest is located East of Sacramento and Stockton on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is easily accessible from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Transcontinental Highway U. S. #50 from Sacramento and U. S. #88 from Stockton cross the forest and give access to Lake Tahoe, Silver and Twin Lakes, and points east; such as, Reno, Carson City, etc.

AREA

The total area of the forest is 886,234 acres, of which 72% is National Forest land and 28% is privately owned land. The National Forest land is in four California counties: Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, and Placer; with a small area in Douglas County Nevada.

TOPOGRAPHY

Lake Tahoe on the northeast corner of the forest is at an elevation of 6229 feet and is circled on the west and south by peaks rising to 10,000 feet. For instance, to the west Pyramid Peak - 9983, Mt. Price - 9975, Dick's Peak - 9974 and Mt. Tallac - 9735. To the southeast are Freel Peak - 10,881 and Monument Peak - 10,067. To the west of Lake Tahoe is the Desolation Valley Wild Area, famed for its rugged granite peaks and beautiful lakes.

On the southern end of the forest westward from Kit Carson Pass on Highway 88, the Silver Lake and Twin Lakes area is well known to recreationists. Silver Lake is 7200 feet and Twin Lakes 7900 feet. Round Top Peak, 10,386 feet, rises to the southeast of Twin Lakes.

From these higher elevations the Sierra slope toward the Sacramento Valley is generally timber producing land to the Forest boundary, which runs along the lower slope from near Georgetown in the north to the Mokelumne River in the south, following an approximate 3000 foot elevation.

CLIMATE

Climatic conditions vary with topography. In the valley slopes the average annual rainfall is 45", while at higher elevations snow depths of 10' to 15' are common. Summer temperatures are mild at the high elevations, ranging from 70 to 85 degrees maximum, while in the front country temperatures as high as 100 degrees are common.

FOREST USES AND RESOURCES

Public Use

The Eldorado National Forest was visited in 1957 by 814,000 people, with an additional 3,264,000 recorded as just passing through on Highways 50, 88 and 89.

Organization Camps

Eight organization camps are located on government land under special use permit. These camps average a turn-over of 75 to 100 campers (Youth Groups, Scouts, Church Groups, Y.M.C.A.'s, etc.) every ten days during the summer months. 155,000 man-days of use for these organization camps was recorded in 1957.

Public Camps and Picnic Areas

Thirty-six public camps were used by 37,000 people in 1957. The Baldwin and Pope Beach picnic areas on Lake Tahoe are the most popular recreation spots on the forest.

Wild Area

The Desolation Valley Wild Area located west of Lake Tahoe is set aside for the public's enjoyment. This primitive area covers approximately 41,380 acres. It was used last year by 12,000 visitors, including hikers and horsemen. Motorized travel is not allowed.

Winter Sports

There are eight winter sports areas with two major chair lifts, a Pomo lift and numerous rope tows. Excellent ski runs have been cleared as well as many slopes for downhill skiing. Because of its easy access by high gear highways with food and lodgings nearby, the Eldorado National Forest is host to thousands of skiers each winter. There is always ample room for family outings to the snow areas.

Forest Trails

There are 720 miles of trails offering excellent riding and hiking opportunities for knapsacking, burro and horseback travelers. A "Trail Riders" group annually in July treks from Lake Tahoe to Placerville via forest trails at the same time a Wagon Train Caravan makes the trip via Highway 50. This weeklong trip is one of the highlights of the summer season on the Eldorado.

Forest Roads

The forest is traversed by a network of approximately 1100 miles of State, County and Forest Service roads in addition to many miles of private roads built and maintained by cities, utility companies, private organizations, or individuals, such as miners, loggers, etc. Of this mileage, about 680 miles are maintained by the Forest Service for the protection and management of the forest. These roads serve campgrounds, provide access to critical fire hazard areas, fish planting, etc.

Water and Watersheds

The most valuable product from the forest is a dependable supply of clean pure water to serve the needs of the recreation areas of the mountains, the agriculture industry and cities of the valleys and the distant Bay Area.

It is estimated that the annual yield of water from this forest is 5.8 million acre feet, valued at an estimated \$58,000,000. Much of this is presently used for agricultural and industrial purposes. For power production there is at present an installed power capacity of about 50,000 kilowatts with a potential installed power capacity of about 713,000 kilowatts.

Timber

A primary concern of the Forest Service is to manage its timber "crop" on a sustained yield basis to maintain a continuous supply of timber. To accomplish this an annual allowable cut has been established based on the productivity of the forest land.

The gross volume of timber on the forest is estimated at seven and one half billion board feet with an allowable annual cut of 86 million board feet. This annual allowable cut is enough to build about 15,000 five-room houses. Receipts from timber sales for the calendar year 1957 reached \$900,000. Sales are made on a bid basis in which about 15 lumber companies in and adjacent to the forest participate. These companies cut timber from the national forest land and also from adjacent privately owned land, integrating their operations for the best forest management. Many of these operators manage their lands under the "Tree Farm" system strongly advocated by foresters for continuous productivity from this natural resource of national importance.

Grazing

About 4900 head of cattle graze on the high country meadows for approximately four months each year.

Fishing

Practically all of the fishing streams and the many lakes on the Eldorado National Forest are stocked with trout each year by the California Department of Fish and Game. There are within the Forest more than 200 lakes and 682 miles of fishing streams.

Wildlife

It is estimated that there are 20,800 deer and 900 black bear within the Eldorado National Forest. Hunters harvest about 1200 deer each year. Approximately 34,000 hunters annually visit the forest.

Minerals

The original California discovery of gold in 1848 by James W. Marshall occurred at Coloma only eight miles from the Forest headquarters at Placer-ville. Since then mining (not only for gold but for many other minerals) has been followed on the forest. Although in recent years this activity has declined in economic importance here, some mines are still active. Information concerning the mining laws may be obtained at local Ranger Stations.

Forest Use Permits

35 commercial areas for resorts, stores, and winter sports are under permit in the Forest. 36 permits are issued under Federal Power Commission Licenses for dams, power plant and power transmission lines, reservoirs and water transmission. There are other miscellaneous permits but of the approximately 1900 permits issued, mountain residences account for almost 1600. Many times this number of such residences are on privately owned land in and adjacent to the Forest.

Receipts

Receipts from timber sales, grazing and special uses were \$980,374 in the Fiscal Year 1957. Twenty-five percent of these receipts are returned to the counties for schools and roads. The last five-year average return to the counties amounts to 37¢ per acre of the national forest land in each of the forest counties.

Forest Fires

The people using these mountains and the investments, both private and public, in and adjacent to the National Forest are dependent upon the fire protection given the entire mountain watershed.

Each person using the forested areas should make it his responsibility to help prevent forest fires, report fires and help extinguish small roadside or other unattended fires.

As forest fires, particularly lightning fires, cannot all be prevented, they must all be controlled with a trained striking force. If first attack fails due to excessively high winds, etc., it becomes imperative that the fire be controlled the first night. To attain this objective in fire control, the latest improvements in training, equipment and techniques must be constantly employed.

A recent development in the use of airplanes in fire fighting was used successfully on this forest in 1957. This is the dropping of fire retardant chemicals to cool down or halt an onrushing fire. Airplanes are also used regularly on the forest to patrol on high fire danger days as the observers can look at blind spots in canyons that cannot be seen from lookouts.

ADMINISTRATION

National Forests are administered by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. There are 17 National Forests in California (Region 5), with the Regional Headquarters in San Francisco. The Eldorado National Forest Supervisor's office is in Government Center, Placerville, telephone number National 2-4145. The Forest is divided into four ranger districts each managed by a District Forest Ranger. The Ranger District Headquarters are:

		<u>Telephone</u>
Caldor	Jackson, California	Jackson-792
Georgetown	Georgetown, California	Georgetown-Federal 3-4545
Lake Valley	Meyers, California	South Tahoe-Kimball 4-3765
Pacific	Pollock Pines, California	Placerville-Niagra 4-2191

Your cooperation will contribute to the wise use, preservation and protection of our mountain watersheds and playgrounds.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION OF GENERAL INTEREST

<u>AREA IN ACRES</u>				Percent of
<u>County</u>	State & Private Land Inside Forest Boundary	Government Owned Land	Gross National Forest Area	Government Owned Land in Each County
Alpine (Calif.)	5,639	55,968	61,607	8.73
Amador "	12,987	69,691	82,678	10.87
El Dorado "	186,070	471,812	657,882	73.60
Placer "	40,519	43,148	83,667	6.74
Douglas (Nev.)		400	400	.06
Total	245,215	641,019	886,234	100.00

NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS (By Fiscal Years)

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Timber	\$857,527	\$535,050	\$574,995	\$1,529,231	\$899,606
Grazing	14,948	11,280	8,374	7,878	7,997
Land Use	43,299	68,586	68,107	69,118	72,476
Water Power	310	270	275	317	295
Total	\$916,084	\$615,186	\$651,751	\$1,606,544	\$980,374

TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF RECEIPTS RETURNED TO THE COUNTIES FOR SCHOOLS AND ROADS

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
Alpine (Calif)	\$19,994	\$13,426	\$14,226	\$35,062	\$21,399
Amador "	24,895	16,718	17,714	43,657	26,646
Eldorado "	168,459	113,194	119,929	295,604	180,397
Placer "	15,513	10,350	10,967	27,070	16,498
Douglas (Nev)	160	108	102	245	147
	\$229,021	\$153,796	\$162,938	\$401,638	\$245,087

WORKING CIRCLES FOR TIMBER GROWING & HARVESTING

<u>Working Circle</u>	<u>Allowable Annual Cut (M Bd. Ft.)</u>	<u>Ranger Districts</u>
Alpine	3.2	Pacific - Lake Valley
Amador	12.0	Caldor
Big Bend	5.2	Pacific
Cosumnes	31.0	Caldor
Georgetown	4.5	Georgetown
Long Canyon	6.0	Georgetown
Silver Creek	10.2	Georgetown - Pacific
Silver Fork - Alder Creek	14.0	Pacific
Total	86.1	

SUMMARY ANNUAL RECREATION (1949 - 1957) STATISTICS (In Thousands)

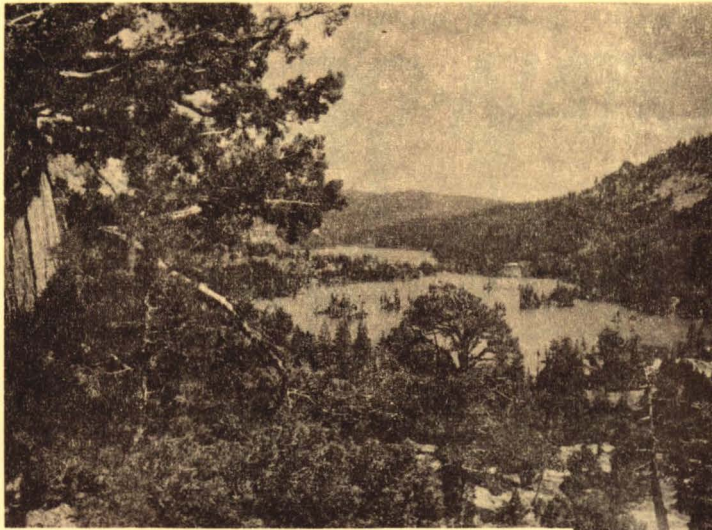
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>1949</u>		<u>1951</u>		<u>1953</u>		<u>1955</u>		<u>1957</u>	
	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>: MD</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>: MD</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>: MD</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>: MD</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>: MD</u>
Campgrounds	60	198	49	175	78	287	79	286	37	136
Picnic Areas	14	8	10	6	180	92	200	121	219	160
Winter Sports Areas	30	39	42	60	58	87	74	105	61	86
Organization Camps	8	70	11	108	13	122	13	115	17	155
Hotels or Resorts	5	25	5	26	10	51	12	57	38	79
Residences	17	391	19	440	20	459	26	642	27	552
Wilderness Areas	11	28	11	29	14	28	14	27	12	30
Other Forest Areas	18	40	24	44	34	57	49	86	403	420
Highways & Roads	745	520	920	610	1511	1006	1879	940	2450	1618
TOTAL	900	1318	1090	1498	1919	2188	2347	2379	3264	3180

These figures show the trend from 900,000 visits in 1949 to 3,264,000 in 1957. The accelerated rate in the last few years is expected to continue with the rapid population increase in the state.

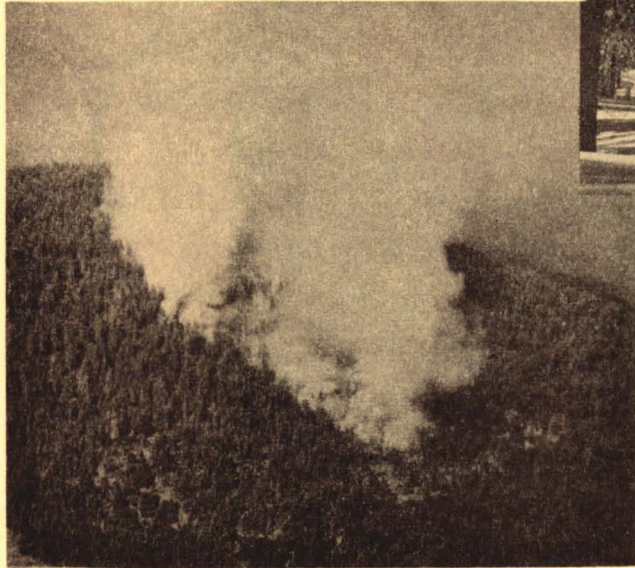
NOTES

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NOTES



← *WATER PRODUCTION*



← *FIRE PROTECTION*

RECREATION



TO RENO

"PLAYLAND OF THE SIERRAS"

89

TO RENO

CARSON CITY

50

LAKE
TAHOE

395

TO
LOS ANGELES

ELDORADO

AUBURN

GEORGETOWN

GEORGETOWN
RANGER STA.

49

NATIONAL

MEYERS RANGER STA.

PACIFIC RANGER STA.

PLACERVILLE
SUPERVISORS HDQ.

50

FOREST

89

MARKLEEVILLE

TO SACRAMENTO
AND BAY AREA

49

89

LUMBERYARD
RANGER STA.
(SUMMER HDQ.)

JACKSON
CALDOR DIST. HDQ.

TO STOCKTON
AND BAY AREA

